

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a stator bar end inserted through an opening within a stator bar end fitting, the fitting having a chamber and the stator bar end having free ends of solid and hollow strands exposed within the chamber and brazed to form strand-to-strand joints and strand-to-fitting joints, the method comprising:

inserting a spray head nozzle into another opening in the fitting and in proximity to the free ends of the solid and hollow strands;

spraying an epoxy resin composition so as to form a coating over the free ends of the solid and hollow strands ~~and over~~ sealing the strand-to-strand joints and strand-to-fitting joints, with the coating extending beyond the strand-to-fitting joints to cover at least a portion of adjoining wall surfaces of the fitting within the chamber; and  
curing the coating.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the coating is applied to a thickness of from 2 to 40 mil.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the coating is applied to a thickness of at least 10 mil.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said portion of said adjoining surfaces includes at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond an interface of the stator bar end and interior surfaces of the fitting.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said hollow strands remain open during spraying.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said hollow strands are plugged during spraying.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said epoxy resin is hydrophobic.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said stator bar end and said fitting are pre-heated prior to spraying.

10. (Original) The method or claim 1 wherein said coating is cured at room temperature.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a stator bar end inserted within a stator bar end fitting, the fitting having a chamber for receiving a liquid through an opening in the fitting, and the stator bar end including solid and hollow strands brazed to form strand-to-strand joints and strand-to-fitting joints wherein, in use, the liquid flows through the chamber and through the hollow strands, the method comprising:

inserting a spray head nozzle through the opening and in proximity to the stator bar end; and

spraying an epoxy resin composition so as to form a coating having a thickness of from 2-40 mil over the stator bar end including the strand-to-strand joints and strand-to-fitting joints, and over at least a portion of adjoining surfaces of the fitting within the chamber and wherein said portion of said adjoining surfaces extends beyond ~~an interface of the stator bar end and interior surfaces of the fitting~~ said strand-to-fitting joints; and curing the coating.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said hollow strands remain open during spraying.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said hollow strands are plugged during spraying.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein said epoxy resin is hydrophobic.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said stator bar end and said fitting are pre-heated prior to spraying.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said coating is cured at room temperature.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said coating extends  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond an interface of the stator bar end and the adjoining surfaces of the fitting.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a stator bar end inserted through an opening within a stator bar end fitting, the fitting having a chamber and the stator bar end having free ends of solid and hollow strands exposed within the chamber and brazed to form strand-to-strand joints and strand-to-fitting joints, the method comprising:

inserting a spray head nozzle through another opening in the fitting and in proximity to the free ends of the solid and hollow strands;

spraying a hydrophobic epoxy resin composition so as to form a coating over the free ends of the solid and hollow strands ~~and over~~, sealing the strand-to-strand joints and strand-to-fitting joints, with the coating extending beyond the strand-to-fitting joints to cover at least a

portion of adjoining wall surfaces of the fitting within the chamber wherein the coating is applied to a thickness of from 2 to 40 mil; and wherein said portion of said adjoining surfaces includes at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond an interface of the stator bar end and interior surfaces of the fitting; and curing the coating.